



Wetherill Mesa Trails

Wetherill Mesa was named for the Wetherill family by Swedish geologist Gustav Nordenskiöld in 1891. Hired as guides and assistants, John, Al, and Richard Wetherill lead Nordenskiöld to many archeology sites where they mapped and carefully dug in an effort to understand the prehistoric inhabitants. Several members of the Wetherill family became field experts and learning from Nordenskiöld’s techniques continued the fledgling science of archeology throughout the Four Corners region supplying various organizations and museums with documented collections.

Realizing that these archeological treasures were unique and witnessing the increased traffic from sightseers and collectors, Ben Wetherill contacted the Smithsonian Institute for expertise and assistance, even suggesting that national park status might be warranted.



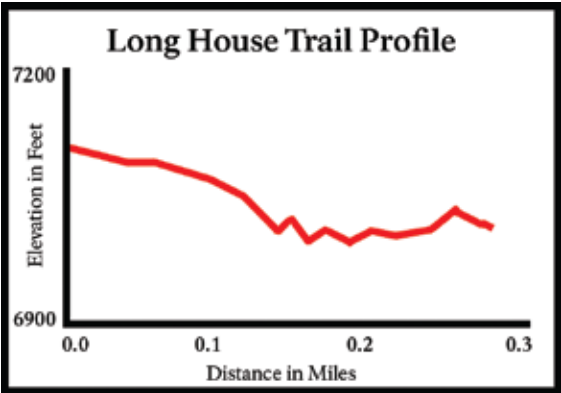
Wetherill Brothers

Less crowded than the rest of the park with only trails and tram transportation, Wetherill Mesa today offers visitors a quiet setting to appreciate the archeological sites and scenery.

Long House
Ranger-guided Tour

Meet the ranger at the ranger kiosk. A tram will transport you to a shaded shelter and trailhead. The trail is paved but drops down steps and switchbacks to the base of Long House. A twenty-foot ladder leads into the back of the dwelling and steps lead back down into the plaza. Trail guide available.

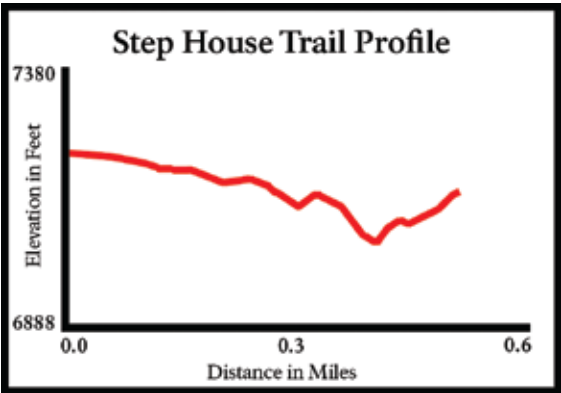
Distance 0.7 miles (1 km) round-trip
Elevation Change is 130 feet (40m)
Time 1.5 hours



Step House
Loop Trail

This trail begins across from the ranger kiosk and descends steeply into Long Canyon. Step House is named for the long narrow stone steps leading to the mesa top. During excavation in 1926, archeologists discovered an older pit house village beneath the trash midden. Trail guide available.

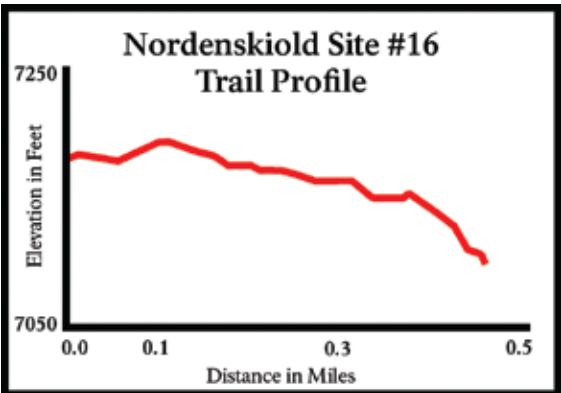
Distance 0.8 miles (1.3 km) to complete the loop
Elevation Change is 90 feet (27m)
Time 40 minutes to 1 hour



Nordenskiöld
Site #16 Trail

This easy trail leads to an overlook of the Nordenskiöld Site #16 cliff dwelling. Guided by members of the Wetherill family, Gustav Nordenskiöld photographed and documented many archeological sites and eventually concluded that the modern Hopi and the Mesa Verde inhabitants were closely related. Trail guide available.

Distance 1.0 mile (1.6 km) round-trip
Elevation Change is 87 feet (27m)
Time 30 minutes to 1 hour



Badger House Community Trail

This trail begins from the ranger kiosk and heads south, gently dropping in elevation. After passing the junction to Nordenskiöld Site # 16 trail, the trail winds through four mesa top sites in the Badger House Community. There are several tram stops where hikers can also ride to cliff dwelling overlooks and back to the ranger kiosk. Trail guide available.

Distance 1.2 miles (1.9 km) from ranger kiosk to Two Raven House tram stop

Elevation Change is 130 feet (40m)

Time 1.5 hours

